

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 13TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

COUNTERFEIT (2 PETER 2:1-10A) FALSE TEACHERS AND DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES

As long as God has spoken to His people, there have been false prophets, and there are still false teachers today.

- This isn't about misinterpretation or minor doctrines. This is about the deity of Christ, His authority, and who we would truly follow. **Their plan is to destroy the relationship we have with Christ.**

"MANY WILL FOLLOW THEIR WAYS"

False teachers may appear successful as they proclaim what they have done for God. They tell made-up stories and effectively engage the senses of their followers.

- In their greed, they ignore the scriptures and deny the work of the Holy Spirit. This is what the world sees when they are looking at "Christians."

JUDGMENT

It may seem like they are getting away with their lives, but the opposite is true. God has always judged the ungodly.

- "Angels who sinned," "the ancient world," and "the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah" are examples of God's consistent righteous judgment.

GRACE

Even in God's judgment, we see His mercy and grace for those that follow Him. Noah and his family were delivered in the ark. Lot and his daughters were protected from destruction.

- **We should rest well knowing that God knows how to rescue us from trials and destruction.**

DISTRESSED AND TORMENTED

It's interesting to note that, although Lot was delivered, he spent time distressed by the behavior of the immoral and tormented by what he saw and heard.

- **Lot had a "righteous soul" but surrounded himself with unrighteousness. The fastest way to rescue and peace is obedience.**

LOUD & PROUD (2 PETER 2:10B-16)

IDENTIFICATION

Peter reveals the true character of false teachers. Although the best way to recognize a counterfeit is to know the truth, there are some things we should notice in their motives.

- They will speak loudly out of extreme arrogance, fueled by ignorance. They show no reverence to powers greater than theirs.

They will: slander what they do not understand, sin without embarrassment, enjoy destructive deception, look for every opportunity to corrupt what is pure, and want everyone to join them in their rebellion against God.

- **False teachers will always find ways to exalt themselves above God.**

WITHOUT WATER (2 PETER 2:17-22)

SPRINGS WITHOUT WATER

A spring and a mist give the hope of water, but the message from these teachers only feed the sinful nature.

- **The message of our culture makes self-indulgence seem good.** Being free from self-control isn't freedom...it's the worst type of bondage because they will ultimately lose the ability to enjoy life.

EMPTY PROMISES

Freedom does not mean "doing your own thing" or "having it your way." That attitude is the very essence of sin.

- **The freedom that Jesus Christ offers means enjoying fulfillment in the will of God. It means achieving your greatest potential for the glory of God.**

TRUE NATURE

Peter makes it clear that these false teachers were never what they claimed to be and that they would always return to their true nature.

- As Believers, we have been given a new nature that will help us discern the truth from the lies of false teachers. **Our responsibility is to share the truth which will help others see our new nature.**

FREEDOM

- Real freedom isn't doing whatever we want, whenever we want.
- **We enjoy real freedom when Christ frees us to become our very best in this life and then to become like Him in the next.**

INFORMATION AND INTIMACY

- There are many who know of God—some may even teach about God from the knowledge that is available to everyone.
- **Christ-followers have a saving knowledge of God and share intimacy with Him.**

FULL OR EMPTY

- Are we living lives of truth or lies?
- **What are we doing to develop real discernment?**
- **Through the Word of God, we discover that Christ is the truth and following Him leads to true freedom and fulfillment!**